

Quarterly Programs List
July/August/September 2009
WCTX MyTV9

1. Community Issues
2. Health
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5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, economy, and law

Community Issues

July:

7/24/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"A Picnic with a Purpose in New Haven"

Yesterday folks came out for the second annual summer meals cook out. Even though school is out -- the board of education still serves free breakfast and free lunch each week day to over four thousand students. Students enrolled in the sports camp enjoyed a healthy lunch. The meals are paid for with federal and state funding.

7/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 50 seconds

"Gun Buy Back Program in New Haven"

Today New Haven city officials and members of the community will come together against gun violence and announce a new gun buy back program for the Elm City. In the past, residents could drop off a gun at police headquarters in exchange for a choice of 1-hundred dollar gift cards. Extra gift cards were given to folks who turn in assault weapons. The goal is to reduce incidents of human related fatal and non-fatal injuries due to the illegal use of firearms in urban neighborhoods. Today's launch celebration will include members of police department and the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners, and CTRIBAT, a non-profit that focuses on eliminating gun violence among America's young adults expected to be all in attendance. In the past, there were a couple of restrictions. There is a limit on how many gifts cards one person can get and gun dealers are not eligible. The buy back program starts next Tuesday the 29th.

7/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Bridgeport Blighted Buildings"

Building up the community by tearing down an eyesore. Bridgeport has its sights set on a blighted building today. It's one of several set to come down this month. There are a lot of things that can make a property blighted. It can be missing doors and windows and in danger of falling down. It can have garbage strewn around or junked cars in the yard. Or that yard could be full of grass that hasn't been cut in a while. When the city finds a blighted property, enforcement officers first have to track down the owner. Sometimes that is tricky. Once they do, they try to work with the landlord to get it cleaned up. If that doesn't work, there's a \$100 a day fine to get the owner's attention. As a last resort, the city sends out

the notice of demolition. It's a lengthy process for legal reasons, and that can be frustrating to neighbors who watch these buildings become havens for drug dealers and the homeless. But this month, Bridgeport is taking down several of these eyesores.

7/13/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 15 seconds

"Bike Donations in New Britain"

Dozens of local children are getting the chance to take a bike ride, thanks to donations. More than 150 bikes were donated over the weekend at the New Britain Rock Cats Stadium. The event was sponsored by News Channel 8's community partner Barnum Financial Group

August:

8/02/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 1 minute

"Red Knight's Charity Ride"

Severely burned children in Connecticut are getting a helping hand... thanks to the generosity of people who know first hand what it's like to be in a fire. We are talking about firefighters... and the New Haven Knights Motorcycle Club of Connecticut. Today... they held their 7th annual 40 mile ride along the shoreline to benefit the Connecticut Burns Foundation. It all started at the Lakeview Tavern in Branford... lots of food and fun. And the rain held off for the ride which was great news. And for many of the motorcyclists... raising money for this cause is personal... because they've seen the trauma these kids face first hand. All the money raised goes to the Connecticut Burn Camp Foundation. By the way... that's me not the back of the bike... with New Haven Fire fighter Lenny Wishart. Thanks for the ride... and a big thanks to everyone...for making it a great day... despite a little rain... And a shout out to our own Gil Simmons who joined in to help MC the event!

8/15/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"Tennis for Charity"

Playing tennis for charity. It was an indoor event in Milford today called the "3rd annual Rally 4 Charity." The goal was to break the Guinness World Record, for longest tennis rally... which is nearly 26-thousand consecutive strokes... set during last year's event by a duo called the Rossetti Brothers. No one broke their record today. But the event has still raised more than 14-thousand -dollars for charity.

8/31/09, News Channel 8 at 10Pm, 20 seconds

"Jay-Z/911 Concert:

Rapper Jay-Z will hold a September eleventh benefit concert in New York City. The charity concert... "Answer the Call"... will be for the families of New York City police and firefighters... killed on nine-eleven. The concert will be held at Madison Square Garden. All proceeds from ticket sales and concert merchandise will go to the police and fire widows and children's benefit fund.

September:

9/07/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 36seconds

"Hepburn Opening"

Open House today at The "Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts center." The center, named in honor of the late actress, is located in Old Saybrook where she lived. Operators of the arts center say it is a great benefit to the community. For more information about the Katharine Hepburn cultural arts center, come to our web site wtnh.com.

9/19/09, News Channel 8 at 10pm, 10 seconds

"Milford Irish Fest"

Milford's Annual Irish Festival drew in a pretty good crowd Saturday. The Cultural event took place behind the public library. Lots of Irish food dancing and other events HAPPENING THERE.

9/28/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"St. Jude Ride"

Even though Sunday proved to be a soggy day, motorcyclists still turned out for the annual Saint Jude Motorcycle ride in Branford. A handful of riders braved the rain.... to raise money for the children's hospital in Memphis. Every year...in Connecticut alone... thousands of dollars are raised to help the children at that hospital. Yesterday they raised about 9 thousand dollars.

Health:

July:

7/28/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

"Healthcare Overhaul"

Officials say a bipartisan group in the Senate is edging closer to a health care compromise. But, it would leave out a government insurance option that President Obama wants and is not expected to require businesses to offer coverage to their employees. Like health care bills drafted by Democrats, the proposal in the Senate Finance Committee would bar insurance companies from denying coverage to any applicant. It would also prevent firms from charging higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

7/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"H1N1 Latest"

Already the H1N1 flu is on the minds of many school administrators. Today, some school leaders are getting help on handling potential H1N1 outbreaks. Experts think the H1N1 outbreak we've seen so far is nothing compared to what we will see when flu season starts up again this fall. And if things continue as they did this spring, it is schools that could face some of the toughest challenges

dealing with it. That's why the Governor is holding a flu forum for school officials at Southern Connecticut State University.

7/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

“Lawmakers Prepare for Veto in the Senate”

Democrats in the General Assembly will work to decide which of Governor Rell's 19 vetoes they will try and override. Lawmakers are holding a veto session at the State Capitol. About 13 bills are under consideration, including two major health care bills, and a bill that makes changes to the state's standard wage law.

August:

8/11/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 15 seconds

“Rell BPA Bill”

Governor Rell set to sign a bill... banning the chemical B-P-A in some containers. Under the new law, B-P-A will be banned in baby bottles... "sippy cups"... and other reusable food and drink containers after October 1, 2011. B-P-A has been identified as a potential health hazard.. espeicailly in young kids.

8/12/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

“AG/CT Health Insurance”

A new study shows... family health care 'premiums' have grown faster than 'income' in Connecticut this decade. According to 'Families U-S-A'... those insurance premiums grew by 96 percent... which is seven times more than median earnings during the years 2000 to 2009. This comes at a time... when state lawmakers joined the Attorney General to announce a plan to force regulators to consider 'ability to pay'... when approving rate hike requests from insurers. Richard Blumenthal says... the recent huge premium hike by Anthem is a perfect example of why more regulation is needed. Among the new regulations being proposed is a requirement for public hearings for all rate hike requests. A requirement that insurance companies be required to inform policy holders about what they are requesting and when public hearings are being held.

8/21/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

“Swine Flu Preps”

The World Health Organization wants governments to ramp up response to H-1-N-1. The agency says swine flu will spread in the coming months. Five, separate trials are underway in the U-S to test a vaccine... One site in Kansas City is testing the vaccine on children to determine the most effective dosage...An H-1-N-1 vaccine is not expected to be available until October....

8/26/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

“Diet Drug/Liver Damage”

The F-D-A is looking into claims a diet drug causes liver damage. The agency says it has more than 30 reports of liver damage in people who have taken Alli, an-over-the-counter weight loss pill. Agency officials point out that so

far... they have not determined a 'direct link' between the drug and liver injuries. Symptoms of liver damage include fatigue, fever and vomiting.

September

9/18/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"Benefits of Tea"

It seems raising a few cups of tea may help you live longer. Wellness experts say... white and green tea are especially packed with more anti-oxidants... compared to the more conventional black tea. Other health claims of tea are still inconclusive -- as well as how much you need to get the benefits. Some research suggests -- that four cups of green tea a day is a good dose.

9/21/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 27 seconds

"CT Family Assets"

When it comes to health care and assets.... Connecticut minorities fare much worse than white people. 'Connecticut Voices for Children' released a report today... showing the state has one of the widest gaps in the nation....between whites and minorities. The median 'net worth' of state households headed by whites is nearly \$196,000..that compared to \$3,000 for minority-headed households. 19 percent of the state's minorities also had no medical insurance for all of last year... compared to 7 point 6 percent for whites.

9/22/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 40 seconds

"Cold or Flu"

Health news this morning... knowing the difference between a cold... or something more serious. Symptoms of the cold are less severe: Stuffy nose, congestion, some body aches and a growing cough. In the flu and h-1-n-1... symptoms consist of fever, more body aches, dry cough and severe fatigue. We've said it before... you'll hear it said again.... the best way of avoiding all these bugs? Wash your hands... and keep them away from your mouth... nose and eyes. See you doctor if you have severe symptoms.

Education:

July:

7/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Wright Technical High School Will Not Reopen Next Fall"

The state budget crisis will keep a Stamford Technical school from opening next month. Operations at J-M Wright Technical High School will be suspended for two years. The State's Education Commissioner says letters went out to parents yesterday, just a month before the new school year was slated to begin. Wright Tech had been on the Governor's list of tech schools that would need to be closed as the state tries to fill the budget gap.

7/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Bridgeport School Nurses to Picket at City Hall"

Bridgeport's school nurses plan on picketing today at city hall. They are protesting missing paychecks over the summer months. After reaching a tentative new contract agreement, the nurses say they were told they wouldn't be paid over the summer months, like they were in the past. The New England Health Care Employees Union has filed a grievance against the city.

7/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Connecticut Mastery Test Scores"

The state education department releases scores today. for the Connecticut Mastery Test and School doesn't start for another month, but schools will get their big report card for the year this morning. That's when the state releases the scores for the Connecticut Mastery Test. The CMT's measure math, reading and writing skills, and in some cases science, for grades 3 through 8. The CAPT's measure the same things for 10th graders. All that information will be released by the state at 10:00 this morning. School administrators can see if their methods are working, and trends in how students do as they progress through the system. The CMT's also help determine if a school has fallen below the federal standards of No Child Left Behind. In Hartford, they got a sneak peak at how the schools did, and they are celebrating. CMT scores here in the capitol city went up 2.7%. It's the second year in a row Hartford's scores went up. On the flip side, the city's scores are still below the state average, and budget problems forced Hartford to lay off 100 teachers.

August:

8/12/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"Bridgeport School Uniforms"

Uniforms are mandatory starting this year for kindergarten through eighth grade students in Bridgeport Public schools...khaki pants and jumpers for girls and white and navy blue shirts. The school board says it's about saving families money... and helping students keep an image. There's also a push to see if this mandatory uniform policy would work for the high schools.

8/14/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 40 seconds

"Text Book Rentals"

A college textbook publisher says it will be the first in the industry to rent books directly to students. Stamford based Cengage Learning says renting will cost 40 percent to 70 percent less... than the suggested retail price. Students will immediately get the first chapter in an electronic format... then will be shipped the book. The company says it will offer several hundred rental titles starting in December.

8/20/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"West Haven Day Care Fund"

A meeting is planned for today... to help clear up some confusion about funding for the state's "School Readiness" program. The liason between the State Department of Education and the City of West Haven is meeting with officials today. It comes after West Haven's "Kids Club" child care facility claims it was told there was no money for August because of the on-going budget battle. The "Kids Club" is part of the "School Readiness" program... which offers affordable, high-quality pre-school and child care programs to low income families. But... the Governor's office insists West Haven's school readiness programs will get funding. It says the check for July is being sent out next week. The check for August will be sent out in September. The Governor's office says that is standard protocol.

8/31/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 40 seconds

"Campus Fire Safety"

The Governor is encouraging cities and towns to elevate their levels of fire safety in both on and off-campus student housing and asking Universities to hold fire safety educational programs for students. They want to make sure students.... Know two ways out of every room ... Check your smoke alarms and CO detectors, make sure you can hear them ... Crawl low in smoke ... Pull the fire alarm as you leave the building to ensure everyone knows of the danger ... Call 9-1-1 from outside or a neighbor's house ... Practice your fire drill regularly ... Don't overload electrical outlets and extension cords
You can find more information on our website at wtnh dot com

September:

9/02/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"CT/No Child Left Behind"

Educators are calling the state's 'No Child Left Behind' report card.. a 'wake-up' call. 40-percent of Connecticut schools don't meet federal standards.. when it comes to standardized test results. The law *requires that 80-percent of students -- and 80-percent of any sub-group, which includes non-English speakers and special-education students -- test at a 'proficient' level. The question is... do the schools have the money to provide more resources to address the problems? Tom Murphy/State Dept. of Education: "The short answer is we don't -- we know that this year is a tough year and next year will be a tougher year for our public school districts.." Alex Johnston/ConnCAN: "Money can't buy increased student achievement.. but the schools that are really hitting it out of the park absolutely have a plan for improvement that has to be resourced." The state Department of Education says... the test results show younger children are falling behind in reading... while high schoolers are lagging behind in math and science.

9/15/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 25 seconds

"CT Blue Ribbon Schools"

Eight schools in Connecticut have been named 2009 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Here they are: Bedford Middle School in Westport... East Ridge Middle School in Ridgefield... Greenwich Catholic School in Greenwich... Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton... Saint Mark School in Stratford... Saint Cecilia School in Stamford... Saint Rose of Lima School in Newtown and the Thomas Hooker School in Meriden. The schools are among the 314 honored nationwide... for either being academically superior -- or helping to close achievement gaps among 'minority and disadvantaged students'.

9/28/09, News Channel 8 at 10Pm, 30 seconds

"Waterbury School Renovation"

If the Waterbury School Board upholds tonight's decision... The Duggan School will be *renovated* and *not* rebuilt. The Board of Education's Building Subcommittee has approved a plan to absorb the extra costs of renovation... instead of building a completely new school. The estimate for the *renovation* recently jumped to more than 41-million dollars... because of structural problems found over the summer. It would cost about 45 million to build a brand new school. The Board of Ed still has to weigh in tonight's decision... and there's no word on when that will happen.

Crime:

July:

7/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

"Trumbull Police Set up Texting System"

Police in Trumbull are trying to make it 'easier' for people to send anonymous tips. All you have to do is type in the word "crimes" in the message enter TRPD for Trumbull police department and then pass along whatever tip you want. The text messages are anonymous. Police say they hope this latest 'tip-technology' will help them fight crimes -- in particular, underage drinking. The program is funded through a grant obtained by the group, Trumbull Parents Against Underage Drinking.

7/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Two People Assaulted in Burlington"

State Police say they've arrested four people... in connection to an assault in Burlington. The incident happened at a home on Lyon Road. Police say 23-year-old Thomas Adamaitis, who lives there, and 24-year-old Shane Levesque of Plainville, were assaulted by the four suspects. Their injuries were not life-threatening. Police said the suspects took off but were later caught. Police are still investigating the incident.

7/17/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 15 seconds

“Diana Taurasi Suspended for 2 Games Following DUI Arrest”

WNBA star and former UConn player Diana Taurasi is now under suspension. Her team, the Phoenix Mercury, suspended her 2 games. Taurasi was arrested last week. She faces three drunk driving related charges. The Mercury calls her conduct 'detrimental' to the team.

7/17/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

“Fourth Arrest in Case of Murdered New Britain Teen”

A fourth arrest has been made in the deadly shooting of a young teenager who was killed while sleeping. New Britain Police say 24-year old Jose Ramon Heredia of Hartford turned himself in yesterday. He is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He is being held on two million dollars bond. Three others are also charged in the 2006 murder of 14 year old Jose Pagan. Police say Pagan was apparently an unintended victim of retaliation for a Hartford shooting that happened earlier in the day.

August:

8/04/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 50 seconds,

“National Night Out”

Today, communities across the country and right here in Connecticut will be taking a stand against violent crimes. It's part of National Night Out and News Channel Eight's Kent Pierce is live in New Haven this morning with more. Tonight is the 26th annual National Night Out and this evening this neighborhood is going to be full of people getting to know each other, getting to know their community and hopefully, caring even more about keeping this community free of crime. Nationwide, they're expecting 34 million to participate in 15,000 different communities. The idea is to promote cooperation between the community and the police. For the most part it looks like a big block party, but the message is...if people care about their neighborhood, it will belong to the people, and not to the drug dealers and other criminals. Nationwide, people credit Night Out with starting countless neighborhood watch groups and promoting police-community partnerships. Here in the Quinnipiac Terrace neighborhood, they're going to have fun and games for the kids. For the grown-ups there will be information and a Q&A session with fire and police personnel. National Night Out runs from 6-9 this evening.

8/20/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

“Woodbridge Bank Robbery”

For the 2nd time in the last couple of weeks and for the fourth time in the last year, the TD Bank on Amity Road has been robbed. Police confirm that a White or Light Skinned Hispanic male entered the bank around 3:43pm this afternoon, handed the teller a note and made off with an undetermined amount of money. This robbery comes one day after police made an arrest in connection with a robbery at this branch less than three weeks ago.

8/28/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 37 minutes

"NH Crime Stats"

Encouraging news tonight... when it comes to crime in New Haven there has not been a homicide in the city in more than five months. In fact, overall crime is down by 10-percent. Homicides are down 60-percent over last year... possibly because traffic stops are up by almost 80 percent. But... not all the news is good. Robberies and aggravated assaults are up 'slightly'... and the number of shootings has remained steady. In the past, the New Haven police department has been criticized for not being up-to-date with its record-keeping. But we're now told the auditing is current; something that hasn't been the case since 2002.

September:

9/3/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 1 minute and 54 seconds

"Derby Shooting"

In Derby, a father is dead... the victim of street crime. Now a family mourns and police look to see if there is a possible link to a shooting just last week. News Channel 8's Annie Rourke has the story. Derby police have the entire area roped off and have called in Shelton and Ansonia detectives as well as the state police major crime to assist. This is the second time in just over a week that Derby has dealt with a violent crime like this. Last Tuesday.. 33-year-old Kierron Stanley had just left work when his truck was rammed. When he tried to run, he was gunned down. Three suspects have been charged. All three knew the victim from the Riverside Apartment complex in Ansonia. Police admit, it's highly unusual to have two shootings here in such a short span of time but will only say they're still investigating.

9/15/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Priest Luxuries"

The Roman Catholic diocese of Bridgeport has settled a lawsuit with a former bookkeeper in Darien. Bethany D'Erario says... she was harassed... for blowing the whistle on crimes committed by Reverend Michael Jude Fay. Fay -- who died last month -- stole more than a million dollars from the Saint John Roman Catholic Church over seven years. The terms of the settlement have not been released.

9/28/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 1 minute and 48 seconds

"Petit Murders Book"

According to the State Department of Correction...Cheshire home invasion suspect Joshua Komisarjevsky is at Northern Correction Institution...the state's maximum security prison...and it is here that he was interviewed for the book, "In the Middle of the Night, The Shocking Story of a Family Killed in Cold Blood." in which he explains, in shocking detail, the beating of Dr. Petit with a baseball bat...of the murders of a mother and two daughters... of the mother pleading for her life...of taking cellphone photos...and spreading gasoline and setting the house afire to cover up the evidence of the crimes. The author, Brian McDonald

claims that in addition to the jail house interviews...Komisarjevsky corresponded through the mail with him several times...also providing details for the book. [12:53/01][DUNLAP] "I think this will definitely make some arguments for the defense that there ought to be a change of venue...that it's likely to create even more publicity...bring out some facts, or alledged facts that we wern't already familiar with." But Quinnipiac University Law School professor Bill Dunlap says it's unlikely even if the book is a best seller because there is no corner of the state that has not heard a lot about this case. He says the fact that the Department of Correction was apparently hoodwinked by this author is another big problem for the case moving forward. [12:54/41][DUNLAP] "That sounds like a real mistake, they've been going out of their way to avoid pre trial publicity because the prosecutors, even if it thinks it could benefit from pre trial publicity knows it can only create problems for them." A spokesman for the State Department of Correction said they would have no comment on this other than to say there is no investigation underway. No comment as well from the prosecutor and the public defender. A spokesperson for St. Martin Press, the publisher was unable to contact the author; Brian McDonald today.

Consumer Issues:

July:

7/23/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Consumers Being Warned to Watch for Cramming"

Consumers are being warned to watch the fine print for what is called "cramming" before signing up for legitimate services. One woman thought it was some kind of scam attached to her AT&T bill. But it turns out Judy Hammer did give out her information but was tricked along with dozens of folks across Connecticut. She was charged nearly 14 bucks a month for a voice mail system she didn't want so she called company to get the fee removed. The attorney general says this is how it works. You log onto a website and you make a purchase but first you're asked to agree to the terms. It's in the fine print that you could be agreeing to sign up and be billed for another service.

7/14/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Blumenthal Set to Testify Before Senate Committee"

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal is set to testify in Washington DC. He'll testify before the US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs in support of President Obama's proposal to create a federal Consumer Financial Protection Agency. The proposal could restore consumer protection enforcement in the state and allow for the prosecution of companies found cheating consumers.

7/06/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 15 seconds

"CT Attorney General Renews Fight against False Sun Screen Marketing"

The state attorney general is renewing efforts to protect consumers from false labels. He has been fighting the Food and Drug Administration to update the old claims and rules for two years now. Blumenthal would like them to spell it out. SPF numbers should not exceed 50. Waterproof claims should still be barred and additional instructions should be required to warn consumers to reapply sunscreen. The attorney general bases his argument on science. He says manufacturers are misleading consumers and this can lead to dangerous mislabeling.

August:

8/5/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

“Phony Debt Collector”

The Better Business Bureau is warning you about phony debt collectors. According to the agency...Scammers claiming to be lawyers call consumers and say they have defaulted on a payday loan. The bogus debt collectors tell the consumer they'll be arrested unless they provide a credit card or bank account number for immediate payment. The b-b-b says do not provide any personal or financial information.

8/21/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 1 minute and 30 seconds

“Volkswagen/Audi Recall”

The recall affects any 2008 or 2009 Volkswagen Jetta, EOS, GTI or R32 with a direct shift gearbox transmission. Plus, 2009 Audi A3, TT and TT ROADSTERS that contain the same DSG transmission. Volkswagen said they have not had any reports of crashes or injuries reported as a result of the problems that triggered the recall.

8/27/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

“Blind Recall”

Listen up moms and dads... a recall to help keep your kids safe. Many companies are recalling millions of window blinds and shades... following the deaths of 3 children. Children died when they got caught in the cords. The three deaths involved 'blinds or shades' made or imported by Vertical Land Incorporated and Lewis Hyman Incorporated. Pottery Barn Kids and IKEA are also recalling window shades and blinds... but no deaths have been associated with those companies. For more information on this federal recall... just log onto our website wtnh.com

September:

9/2/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

“Car Repair Practices”

It's a situation a lot of drivers have found themselves in at one time or another dealing with an insurance company about a car repair. Now Connecticut's Attorney General is taking action against... what he calls... insurance companies

'steering' consumers to preferred repair shops. Attorney General Blumenthal says... 50 years after a court order to prevent this practice... it continues to be an issue. He says.. it works like this... an insurance adjuster will suggest, imply or even offer some type of financial incentive... to get a driver to take their car to one of their *preferred* shops for repairs. Richard Blumenthal/Ct. Attorney General, "It harms consumers because it deprives them of their first choice for repairs and it harms auto body repairs because it creates an un-level playing field" Bob Skrips/Auto Body Association, "Consumers in the state of Connecticut and across the nation have to realize its time to step up... know one should direct you anywhere it's your car it's your choice." Blumenthal has written to U-S Attorney General Eric Holder... to investigate and clamp down on insurance industry practices.

9/16/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"Retail Sales"

There is some positive economic news tonight. Consumer prices went up a little bit in August. The news comes one day after a report said sales are way up. August retail sales were up two point seven percent. Americans bought more electronics... appliances and clothing. Car sales surged, thanks to the cash-for-clunkers program. As a result, stocks are also on the rise. But a lot of Americans are not feeling a recovery. Unemployment, now at a twenty six year high is expected to hit ten-percent by the end of the year.

9/28/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Oil Prices This Year"

We've got some good news this morning... it looks like you'll be saving on home heating oil prices this year. The current price for home heating oil is around \$2.19 that's almost two dollars cheaper per-gallon when compared to last year. At that time, analysts were warning that the price could hit 6 dollars so people locked in at 4 but the price plummeted two months into the season. This year some retailers say home owners aren't as eager to lock in their rates. But the market has favored the lock-in buyer 13 of the last 15 years. And according to the Department of Energy, an early cold snap or a rebounding economy could send prices soaring again.

9/28/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 45 seconds

"Gas Prices"

Those of you who need to fill up before hitting the road this morning may find quite a nice surprise. Gas prices are dropping dramatically. News Channel 8's Crystal Haynes live in BERLIN this morning at one spot where drivers can find a deal. The average price of regular gasoline has dropped nearly seven cents nationwide...over a two week period At the pumps today...the national average is two fifty... Right here in Connecticut...the average is two sixty nine. According to the national Lundberg survey of fuel prices released Sunday. The average price for a gallon of mid-grade on survey day...Sept 25th...was 2.65...premium was at

2.77. The lowest prices surveyed in the country are in St. Louis and the highest are in California.

Government, Economy, & Law

July:

7/31/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

"Governor Rell Proposes Sin Tax Increases"

For the first time in this long state budget standoff, Governor Rell is proposing tax hikes to cover the state's deficit. She is proposing raising what's known as "sin taxes" or taxes on cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol, along with a three year ten-percent surcharge on corporate taxes. The Governor and Democrats who control the General Assembly each unveiled new budget plans yesterday. The Democrats' plan still increases taxes on the wealthy and businesses and on estates, but at lower rates than their previous proposals. Rell says the Democrats' plan is unaffordable and hopes they'll consider her proposal when she and lawmakers meet for closed-door budget talks on Tuesday.

7/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"Gov. Rell & Democrats to Unveil New Budget Proposals"

Governor Rell and Legislative Democrats are set to unveil new versions of their budget proposals this week. It's required by a new state law pushed through by the legislature's majority Democrats. The Appropriations Committee will meet Thursday to vote on a revised two-year budget covering a newly-agreed-upon 8 point 56 billion deficit figure. The state has been operating without a budget since July 1.

7/02/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Latest on the Economy"

Since the financial crisis last fall, American households have lost more than 6.4 trillion dollars of net worth and a new labor department report to be released today isn't good news. That report is expected to show the nation's unemployment rate edging closer to double digits. Wall Street economists predict the jobless rate will rise to 9.6 percent in June from 9.4 percent in May. That would mark a 26-year high. The rising rate comes as recession-weary companies continue to cut workers. Economists expect a loss of 363,000 jobs in June, up from 345,000 job cuts in May. Economists believe a chunk of those cuts will be tied to shutdowns at general motors corp. and fallout from the troubled auto industry. Since January, nearly 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, and economists say before the year is out, one in ten will be out of work.

August:

8/6/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds

"GOP Budget Proposal:

Republican state lawmakers unveil their latest budget proposal, it calls for no tax increases. Also it reduces state spending, shrinks state government and consolidates 23 state agencies to 6. Republican leaders say the plan doesn't mean sacrificing essential services. Democrats - who control the General Assembly - are dismissing the plan. Chris Donovan/(D) House Speaker: "There's nothing new there -- it's in conflict with the Governor's own package.. I really don't see it playing a role in our negotiations. Rep. Larry Cafero/(R) Minority Leader: "This is the worst time, the worst time to increase taxes in the midst of this crisis. We're doing in our budget what every household and every business is doing -- we're saying we can't spend as much as we used to." Budget talks aren't scheduled again until next week

8/17/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"Health Care Reform:

Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius says the administration is open to letting consumer-owned nonprofit cooperatives sell health insurance in competition with the private industry. That would be instead of a proposed government-run program. Sebelius says the Obama administration still believes there should be choice and competition in the health insurance market... but that a public option is not the essential element.

8/31/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 20 seconds.

"Kennedy Successor"

Massachusetts lawmakers will hold a public hearing on whether to *change* a state law... that would allow the governor to name a replacement for the late Senator Ted Kennedy. Kennedy made such a suggestion some months ago... to Massachusetts' Governor Deval Patrick. The governor has set a date of January 19th for a 'special election' to fill the late Senator's seat. A hearing on September 9th will deal with the idea of an interim replacement. "Look, I think having two voices in the United States Senate is in our best interest." Governor Patrick also says Kennedy's widow, Vicki told him that's she's not interested in being an interim replacement.

September:

9/1/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 50 seconds

"Budget Passed"

Lawmakers worked overnight to pass a budget. But now the big question is will the governor sign off on it? News Channel 8's Kent Pierce is at the state capitol this morning. We finally have a budget deal...at least the democrats think so. Both houses of the legislature passed a budget last night, and now it goes to the governor to sign...or not sign...that's the part that's still kind of up in the air.

We do know that this is not quite the deal governor Rell wanted. Last week she gave in on the so-called millionaire's tax, so this budget does increase the income tax on joint incomes over one million dollars. But along with that tax increase, the governor wanted a cut in the sales tax starting October 1st. The democrats have put that off until January 1st, and only if the state is in better financial shape by then. The Governor also wanted democrats to find another 520 million dollars in spending cuts. They say they found some, but republicans say it's nowhere near \$520 million. So is there a deal or isn't there? We hope to get some clarification today whether the Governor will sign this bill or not.

9/25/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds
"Obama/G20 Summit"

The white house says the Group of 20 nations... is going to take on a bigger role. G-20 will be taking on the role of a "board of directors" for the global economy. President Obama initiated the move....and more details are expected today. G-20 is meeting again today in Pittsburgh.

9/25/09, News Channel 8 at 10PM, 25 seconds
"Rell/State Fees"

Governor Jodi Rell says she finds it 'incredible' that state lawmakers are considering raising fees less than a month after passing a thirty seven billion dollar budget. The governor says she will veto a bill that raises motor vehicle and other fees by fifty million dollars. Democrats say the hikes are needed to cover rail subsidies and other programs that the governor and legislators agreed needed funding. But, Rell is not buying it. "I will veto the bills...I just have to tell you the public is paying close attention right now and they're saying 'enough already, you've already raised taxes, you've already increased some fees...don't come back and do this again.'" "We're finding it puzzling about her behavior...we are trying to make things work..come up with solutions." Today lawmakers postponed a planned session on the remaining state budget bills until next week.

9/29/09, Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds
"Halloween Sales"

Experts are warning that this halloween may still be haunted by a bad economy. According to a national retail federation survey, consumers are planning to spend an average of just over 56 dollars on Halloween this year compared to 66 last year. Fewer people are also planning to celebrate... 62 percent.. down from 64 percent last year. Last year's holiday season was the worst in nearly 40 years by some measures. Among other things, consumers planned to cut down on candy purchases, to reuse old decorations or make their own costumes.